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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/748,374	12/27/2000	Tomohito Shida	1466.1024	3846
21171 7590 09/05/2007 STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER ALVAREZ, RAQUEL	
			ART UNIT 3622	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/05/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to communication filed on 3/20/2007.
2. Claims 1-8 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinichi et al. (JP 11283127 hereinafter Shinichi) in view of Ikeda (5,937,391 hereinafter Ikeda).

With respect to claims 1-2, 5, 7, Shinichi teaches a method of issuing points in a point-service system at can be accessed by a customer using a terminal device via a network (Abstract). Entering, by the customer, a number of reserved points issued to the customer, on a display of the terminal device (i.e. the customer enters the number of reserved points to be redeemed (paragraph 0009); a recognition code for each entered number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points (i.e. issuance information including an issue date of a ticket and management data. The ticket issuance information is printed on a ticket after issuance)(paragraphs 9 and 54); recording the issue generated recognition code with the entered number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points (paragraph 9); subtracting the entered number of reserved points from the accumulated number of

points for the customer, and recording a remaining number of points as a new accumulated number of points (paragraph 0008); transmitting data of a point use ticket, comprising the entered number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points and the recognition code for the entered number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points, to the terminal device (i.e. the issuance information is sent to the user terminal and is printed on the ticket); and displaying the point use ticket on the display of the terminal device to allow the customer print the point use ticket for use by the customer (paragraph 0008) .

With respect to the newly added limitation of the customer requesting the reserved points from any one of the plurality of point-use facilities. Schinichi teaches the general process of printing a ticket from accumulated points, the tickets having unique issuance information identifying the ticket in order to avoid forgery. Schinichi is silent as to if the user is requesting the points from one facility among a plurality of facilities. Ikeda teaches on Figure 16 requesting to redeem reserved points from plurality on shops A-Z. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included requesting the reserved points from any one of the plurality of point-use facilities in order to consolidate the various points issued by the plurality of facilities or shops.

With respect to claims 3-4, 6, 8, Shinichi further teaches means for adding the number of points for the invalidated recognition code to the accumulated number of

points for the customer to record the added number of points as a new accumulated number of points in the point database [0009].

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant argues that Shinichi doesn't teach a recognition code issued for the requested number of points. The Examiner disagrees with Applicant because Shinichi teaches issuance information which is sent to the user's terminal and unique to each ticket in order to avoid forgery of the tickets (paragraph 54).

6. With respect to Applicant's arguments with respect to requesting the reserved points from any one of the plurality of point-use facilities, the arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

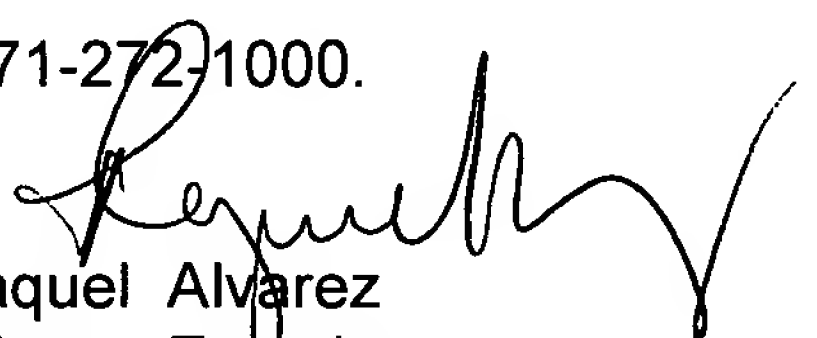
Point of contact

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raquel Alvarez whose telephone number is (571)272-6715. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric w. Stamber can be reached on (571)272-6724. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3622

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Raquel Alvarez
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3622

R.A.
5/21/2007